

Hazardous Waste Connection

Compliance Information for Generators in Kansas

Summer 1997

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How Do I Know It's Hazardous?

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Many business owners are stumped when asked to identify which of their wastes are hazardous. Determining what's hazardous and what's not is not always simple. Wastes are hazardous either because of a characteristic they have or because they are on a list of known hazardous substances. These are identified in state and federal regulations as either characteristic waste or listed waste. To make the determination you need to know the following: what process generated the waste; the original composition of the waste material; and what substances were added to the waste during the time of use.

A waste will be a characteristic hazardous waste if it is ignitable (commonly has a flash point of less than 140°F), is reactive (the waste is unstable, it reacts with water and forms an explosive mixture and may generate a toxic gas), corrosive [has a pH of less than 2 (acidic) or above 12.5 (caustic)], or is toxic (based on a special TCLP test, the levels of specific contaminants are above certain levels listed in the regulations). To find out if the wastes you generate are characteristic hazardous wastes, first look at the MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheet) provided by the product manufacturer. Check the "Fire and

Four types of characteristic hazardous wastes:

- **Ignitable**
- **Reactive**
- **Corrosive**
- **Toxic**

Explosion Hazard Data" to find the flash point of the material, then check the "Reactivity Data" to determine the stability of the material. Next, look for the "Physical Data" for information on the pH level. Finally, look at the list of active ingredients and the "Health Hazard Data" for information on the toxicity of the ingredients and compare the ingredients to the list of chemicals found on page 8 of your KDHE Hazardous Waste Generator Handbook (available at no cost by calling 785/296-1600 or FAXing 785/296-1592). Unfortunately, not all MSDSs are written in the same format, so take the time to read the information thoroughly. You may find the information you're looking for under a different section heading.

A waste will be a listed hazardous waste if it is on the lists on pages 22 through page 45 in the Hazardous Waste Generator Handbook. Hazardous wastes contained in the F-list are from non specific sources which may have been generated by various industrial processes. The list is comprised of solvents commonly used as degreasers, paint removers and paint thinners (as used in parts washers or cleaning paint guns), metal operations and dioxin containing chemicals.

See How Do I Know? Continued on Page 2

Hazardous Waste Connection



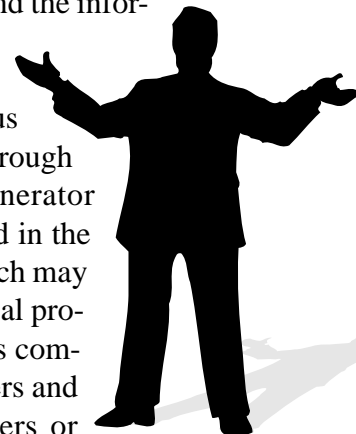
Kansas Department of Health & Environment

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By Bill Bider

This issue of the *Hazardous Waste Connection* focuses on the need of businesses to determine which, if any, of their wastes are hazardous. The most obvious reason to make this determination is to minimize legal and financial liabilities. By establishing appropriate waste management procedures for all hazardous wastes, businesses can eliminate their fear of enforcement action by KDHE or EPA including fines, legal costs, and negative press. In addition, good waste management practices and recordkeeping minimize the possibility that a company will ever be identified as a responsible party for a future clean-up project.

However, there are other important, but less obvious, reasons for determining whether your wastes are hazardous. When businesses thoroughly evaluate their wastes, they learn which wastes are hazardous and the reasons why they are hazardous (i.e., ignitable, toxic, corrosive, etc.). Based upon this information, businesses can develop safe storage methods which minimize employee exposure and accident potential. Improperly characterized wastes may be mistakenly mixed with other trash, which can result in exposures to employees, trash collectors, landfill or transfer station operators, and children who have been known to explore in trash dumpsters.

Thorough waste evaluation programs by businesses should also help maintain higher quality streams, rivers, and even groundwater, which can all be impacted when wastes are improperly managed. Illegal disposal down a sewer drain can damage the integrity of the sewer pipes or severely impact the ability of the local wastewater treatment plant to handle other routine wastes by killing off the "good bacteria" in the treatment system. Disposal with trash in the landfill can contribute to groundwater contamination which may affect drinking water supplies and increase local taxes to clean up problems.

So, while it is important to simply stay in compliance with the regulations, a comprehensive program to characterize all industrial and commercial waste streams can yield other benefits and show that you care about your employees, your neighbors, and your community.

How Do I Know? *Continued from Page 1*

The **K-listed** wastes are generated from specific industrial processes such as wood preservation, pigment production, chemical and pesticide production, petroleum production, iron and steel production and explosives manufacturing. These industrial processes may generate hazardous wastes found on the F or K lists.

The **P-listed** and **U-listed** hazardous wastes include discarded commercial chemical products, off-specification chemicals, residues left in containers and residues from spillage of materials. The chemicals on the P-list are acutely toxic and regulated in smaller quantities. Businesses that generate P and U-listed wastes include pesticide applicators, laboratories and chemical formulators.

Before determining whether your business generates hazardous waste, check the list of exempted wastes found on page 3 of the *Hazardous Waste Generator Handbook*. These wastes are exempt from hazardous waste regulations but must still be managed in an environmentally sound manner.

Always remember to get a MSDS from the manufacturer or supplier on a regular basis, as the MSDS may change over time. The supplier may have information

about proper waste handling and disposal. Keep this information together in one location for easy referral.

It is a good business practice to develop an inventory of all wastes generated by your business, demonstrating sound management of both solid and hazardous wastes. This will assist you in determining your generator category and in properly disposing of your wastes in a timely manner.





Common Hazardous Waste Violations

By Ron Smith

The most common hazardous waste violations found during routine waste inspections are (1) failure to determine if wastes are hazardous, (2) incorrect information on the notification forms, (3) containers not marked with the words “Hazardous Waste”, (4) containers missing the accumulation start date, and (5) open containers. This article will discuss how to avoid each problem.

It is the generator’s responsibility to determine if wastes meet the definition of a hazardous waste (K.A.R. 28-31-4(b)). The two ways to make this determination are (1) using knowledge of the waste stream and how the waste was generated or (2) test the waste. For example, a repair shop is using a solvent to clean engine parts. The solvent’s MSDS shows a flash point of 100°F. Since the flash point is under 140°F, the waste solvent would be an ignitable hazardous waste with waste code D001. For the second method, the operator would collect a representative waste sample, submit it to a Kansas certified laboratory for analysis, and compare the results with Table 3 in the Hazardous Waste Generator Handbook.

Many generators submit the hazardous waste notification form to get an EPA ID number but forget to resubmit the form anytime the required information changes (K.A.R. 28-31-4(c)(1)). It is very common for the contact person, a waste code, or the generator size to change. For example, recycling services occasionally change waste codes. Each time this information changes, the generator must submit an updated form. This information helps us determine how often to inspect your facility or what types of information should be provided to you. A frequent violation, especially for small businesses, is failing to mark the storage container with the words “Hazardous Waste” (K.A.R. 28-31-4(h)(1)(D) or (g)(3)). These words must be placed on the container or tank when waste is first placed into it. The words must be legible, placed on the container/tank by stenciling, by using a permanent marking pen, or by using a preprinted yellow hazardous waste label.

Another frequent violation is failing to write the accumulation start date on the hazardous waste accumulation container or tank (K.A.R. 28-31-(h)(1)(C) or (g)(2)). This includes the month, day and year when waste is first placed in that container or tank. This must be legible and can be written on the container/tank by

stenciling or marking pen or on the preprinted label.

Failing to keep a container or tank closed at all times except when adding or removing waste is another frequent violation. The purpose of this regulation is to prevent spillage if the container is knocked over and/or to minimize the evaporation of volatile wastes (K.A.R. 28-31-4(h)(10)(B) or (g)(1)). If the container is an open-top drum, the lid needs to be secured to be considered closed. For liquids, if you use the container frequently, consider using a funnel – with a secure lid – that screws into the bung hole. A future article will discuss this issue further. The above is not a complete listing but are common violations. If you have questions about how these regulations apply to your facility, please call us or the Pollution Prevention Institute, Kansas State University. Contact names and phone numbers are listed on the back page of this newsletter. You do not need to identify yourself to discuss your particular question.

How Do I Dispose of My Wastes?

By Mary Bitney

Depending upon the quantity of hazardous waste you generate in a month, your disposal options will vary. If you generate less than 25 kg (55 lbs) of hazardous waste or 2.2 lbs of acutely hazardous waste in a calendar month, you are a **Small Quantity Generator (SQG)**. Provided you do not store over 55 lbs of waste, you have the following options to properly handle your wastes: recycle, reuse or reclaim them; solidify the liquids and sent them to a sanitary landfill; or neutralize the waste and discharge to the sanitary sewer with permission from the city. SQGs do not need to get an EPA ID number.

If you generate between 25 and 1,000 kg (55 to 2,200 lbs) in a month, you are a **Kansas Generator**. If you generate over 1,000 kg (2,200 lbs) or more than 1 kg (2.2 lbs) of acutely hazardous waste (P-list), you are an **EPA Generator**. Both need an EPA ID number and are required to manifest their hazardous wastes to a treatment, storage and disposal (TSD) facility (see Appendix F in the HW Generator Handbook).

Remember, it is illegal to dispose of hazardous wastes by dumping them on the ground or into surface waters.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Upcoming Events

*Sept. 24-25 Pollution Prevention Conference, Linking Community, Business and Government, Lawrence, KS.
Call Janet Neff, KDHE, (785) 296-0669*

☎ Important Hazardous Waste (HW) Program Phone Numbers

Kansas Department of Health & Environment (KDHE)

Gary R. Mitchell, Secretary 785/296-0461

KDHE - Division of Environment

Ronald Hammerschmidt, PhD, Director 785/296-1535

KDHE - Bureau of Waste Management 785/296-1600

Bill Bider, Director 785/296-1612

Mary Bitney, Technical Support Section Chief 785/296-1603

John Mitchell, W.P.P&O Section Chief 785/296-1608

Dennis Degner, Permitting Section Chief 785/296-1601

Mostafa Kamal 785/296-1609

Ron Smith 785/296-1604

George McCaskill 785/296-1606

Linda Prockish 785/296-0005

Mark Duncan 785/296-1604

Lynda Ramsey 785/296-0681

KDHE - District Office Inspectors/Engineers

Northeast - Lawrence 785/842-4600

Southeast - Chanute 316/431-2390

North Central - Salina 785/827-9639

South Central - Wichita 316/337-6020

Northwest - Hays 785/625-5664

Southwest - Dodge City 316/225-0596

EPA RCRA Hotline (800) 424-9346

KDHE Public Advocate 785/296-0669

toll free for long distance (800) 357-6087

Kansas State University (KSU)

Pollution Prevention Institute/Small Business

Environmental Assistance Program (SBEAP) 785/532-6501

University of Kansas (KU)

SBEAP - Resource Library 785/864-3968

SBEAP - Hot Line (800) 357-8898

HOW MAY WE DIRECT YOUR CALL....

EPA ID numbers Linda Prockish

Compliance Assistance Outreach Program Mary Bitney

General HW Generator questions Ron Smith

Groundwater Monitoring Mark Duncan

HW Complaints Lynda Ramsey or Ron Smith

HW Notification questions Linda Prockish

HW Permits Mostafa Kamal

HW Regulation information .. John Mitchell or George McCaskill

HW Transporter Registration information Linda Prockish

PCB, TSCA and/or CERCLA George McCaskill